

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

ERDA-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 OMB-01

SAM-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /107 W

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R 162118Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6486

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ENRG,CA

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION OF ALASKAN OIL--STATUS OF
UNITED STATES LEGISLATION AND ALTERNATIVE PORT

REF: STATE 110723

1. REFTEL INFO CONVEYED MAY 16 BY POL COUNSELOR TO
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA, J. BLAIR SEABORN.
SEABORN APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE INFORMATION OF WHICH
GOC NOT ENTIRELY UNAWARE BUT HAD BEEN LACKING DETAILS.
SEABORN PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE GAP IN ESTIMATES BE-
TWEEN THE WASHINGTON OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION AND THE
OIL COMPANIES. THE EXTREME RANGE MAD HIM WONDER IF
THE OIL COMPANY ESTIMATE COULD BE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE,
AND HE ASKED IT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOME
REASONABLY UNBIASED BUT CAPABLE SOURCE TO EVALUATE
THE VARIOUS ESTIMATES. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT RESULTS OF SUCH
A STUDY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE BY JUNE 11 ON WHICH DATE ENVIRONMENT
CANADA OFFICIALS, GOC CG IN SEATTLE, AND BC OFFICIALS WILL BE
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MEETING IN VANCOUVER ON A RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

SEABORN DIRECTED RAY ROBINSON WHO ATTENDED MEETING TO DRAFT MEMO TO ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SAUVE TO CAUTION HER TO MUTE HER OPTIMISM IN ANY PUBLIC REFERENCES TO THE ALASKAN OIL TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM.

2. ROBINSON RAISED SOMEWHAT RELATED QUESTION OF PRIORITY TO BE GIVEN DEVELOPMENT OF NAVIGATIONAL AID SYSTEM FOR JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT. HE INDICATED THAT FUNDS AND COAST GUARD PERSONNEL FOR SUCH PROJECT HAD BEEN DIVERTED FOR APPARENTLY HIGHER PRIORITY PROJECTS IN NEW YORK AND HOUSTON. GOC CONSIDERS JUAN DE FUCA NAVAIDS PROBLEM TO BE ONE ON WHICH EARLY ACTION MUST BE INITIATED. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SINCE PROPOSED SYSTEM ENVISAGED RADAR STATIONS ON BOTH CANADIAN AND US SIDES, US FEDERAL LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE PROJECT COULD PROCEED. HE ARGUED, SECONDED BY SEABORN, FOR HIGHER PRIORITY THAN AT PRESENT TO BE GIVEN THIS MATTER BY USG.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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